



About the School:		About the Students:	
Grades:	K-5	African American:	70%
Number of Students:	500	Caucasian:	15%
Test(s):	FCAT	Hispanic:	5%
Reduced Price Lunch:	64%	Asian:	6%
		Other:	4%
		ELL	-

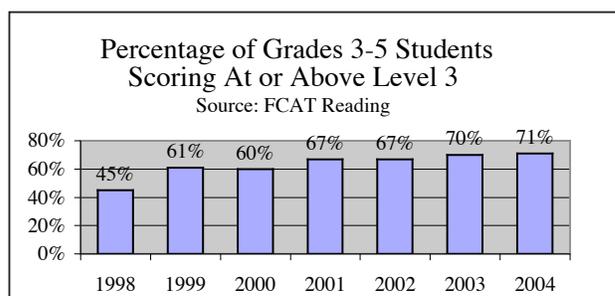


Open Court Reading and Reading Mastery Combine to Create Successful Elementary Reading Program

Frank Hartsfield Elementary School routinely receives straight As from the state of Florida, and has been earning that mark every year from 1999-2004!

But academic achievement in reading was a different story in the early 1990s. Lagging reading test scores prompted educators to investigate the validity of their reading programs. A thorough analysis revealed that Grades 1 and 2 teachers used a variety of approaches to teach reading, with little consistency in instruction.

The resulting problems were clear in the test scores. Florida students in Grades 3-10 take the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) each spring. The test includes five achievement Levels, with 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest. In 1998, the percentage of Hartsfield students in Grades 3-5 scoring at or above Level 3 on the reading portion of the test was 45%. After the implementation of SRA/McGraw-Hill's *Open Court Reading* and *Reading Mastery* programs, that percentage increased significantly to 61% in 1999. By 2004, 71% of students scored at or above Level 3.



Open Court Reading and Reading Mastery Make the Difference

Hartsfield educators decided to tackle the problem first in the earliest grades. They implemented SRA/McGraw-Hill's *Open Court Reading* in Grades K-2 at the beginning of the 1996-1997 school year. The program was adopted school-wide the following year. Principal Scotty Crowe said he and his colleagues chose the program for its phonics base. "We knew its systematic curriculum would meet the needs of our students. *Open Court Reading* embraces a philosophy that our teachers love. They are sold on the concept and the thoroughness of the curriculum. It's amazing to witness and be part of this process."



During the 1998-1999 school year, Hartsfield educators added another SRA/McGraw-Hill reading program, Direct Instruction's *Reading Mastery*, as an intervention tool. "The combination of *Open Court Reading* and *Reading Mastery* provides an intensive instructional approach that absolutely meets the needs of our students," Crowe said.

Now, a reading teacher goes into the K-5 classrooms every day to teach *Reading Mastery* in small groups (4-6 kids) for 30-45 minutes. *Reading Mastery* is an integral part of the teaching formula Hartsfield teachers use when a Grade 2 or 3 transfer student is reading below grade level. "The systematic approach is very direct and helps bring children up to grade level in a reasonable amount of time," Crowe added.

"We've seen tremendous gains throughout the years, and that in part, is due to the strong combination of these reading programs," Crowe explained. "When you have an entire school that believes in a certain approach and curriculum, it becomes a powerful system. *Open Court Reading* and *Reading Mastery* support the teachers, the teachers support the combination, and the system supports the students."

The programs also make the difference for Hartsfield students learning English for the first time. "In addition to being non-English speakers, these students often come from low socioeconomic homes," Crowe explained. "When they arrive at Hartsfield, they are so far behind. But we bring them up to speed quite quickly with *Open Court Reading* and *Reading Mastery*. After one year with these curricula, they become readers. It's amazing to watch their fluency and comprehension skills grow each day."

About Frank Hartsfield Elementary School

With more than 500 students in Grades K-5, Hartsfield serves a diverse student base: 70% African American, 15% Caucasian, 6% Asian American, 5% Hispanic, and 4% multi-cultural. About 64% of the students are eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunches, compared to a state average of 53%. For more information about Frank Hartsfield Elementary School, visit www.hartsfield.leon.k12.fl.us.

For More Information

If you would like to learn more about success with *Open Court Reading* and Direct Instruction programs in your school or district, please contact us today at **1-888-SRA-4543**.
